

sketch, and contemplate if they can without surprise,—I hope they may be able to do it without disgust,—the miserable patchwork of argument with which gentlemen are driven to invest themselves.

I must confess, Mr. Speaker, that I sensibly feel the many disadvantages under which I approach the discussion of this subject; gentlemen on the opposite side scrupulously preserve, on this occasion, what they no doubt consider a prudent silence. With the exception of the gentleman from Richmond, (Mr. Leake,) who has casually made some precious confessions, there has been here an ominous concealing of hands; we must resort elsewhere to ascertain the motives by which gentlemen are said to be influenced, and the arguments by which it is said they endeavor to influence others.

It has been said, not here—no, sir, but without the walls of this House, with the view of operating on the fears of members, that the State is not able to rebuild her Capitol,—that she has not the funds, and cannot procure them without exacting a grievous tax from the people—"most lame and impotent conclusion!" most flimsy and unavailable objection! Sir, I have, perhaps unfortunately, as instinctive a horror for statistics and dull calculations, as some gentlemen have *lately* discovered at the dreadful idea of taxing the *poor people*; but, sir, if the House will bear with me a moment, I will undertake, in a very few words, to demonstrate that gentlemen must find some other spot than this on which to plant their lever. From the Report of the Treasurer, which I hold in my hand, it appears that, after the redemption of a large amount of Treasury notes, there remains on hand,

In actual cash in the Treasury,	\$6,657
Cash belonging to the Literary Fund,	75,025
Do. do. Internal Improvement Fund,	7,944
Amount due on Cherokee bonds,	34,748
Bonds for other property,	7,200
General tax, payable October, 1832,	66,500
Bank dividends on \$712,000 at least,	200,000
Making in the aggregate,	<hr/> \$398,074
Deduct expenses of this Session,	40,000
Leaving an available balance of	<hr/> \$358,074

From an estimate I hold in my hand, emanating from a source entitled, with me, to the highest confidence, I feel justified in saying, that the Capitol can be rebuilt, with all its original beauty and grandeur, for the sum of \$42,500. Are gentlemen disposed to doubt? Let them do so no longer, when they advert to the improvident and careless expenditure of the public money on the old building, and to the undeniable fact, that at this day, labor and materials of all kinds are 25 per cent. cheaper than they were at the time of its erection. What then, Mr. Speaker, becomes of this startling idea